

UNIVERSITY SENATE

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: Undergraduate Academic Council

Date: October 19, 2009

Maximum Credit Load

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the existing bulletin text below be replaced with the new text below.
2. That this takes effect for the Fall 2010 semester.
3. That this proposal be forwarded to President George M. Philip for approval.

Credit Load: Existing Text

A normal semester load is *15 credits*. The maximum number of credits for which a student registers in a semester is an individual matter. The maximum credit load for a student in a given semester is determined with the advice and consent of that student's academic advisor. *It is incumbent upon students to present a rationale to their academic adviser for registration for more than 15 credits.*

No undergraduate may register for more than 19 credits.

The Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (LC 30) may authorize students to register for more than 19 credits. Students must present compelling academic justification and have the approval of their academic adviser or major department for a request to exceed 19 credits to be considered.

Credit Load :New Proposed Text

A normal semester load is *15 credits*. Registration for at least 12 credits is required for a student to be considered full time. For loads of no more than 19 credits, the number of credits for which a student registers in a semester is an individual matter, determined by the student with the advice of that student's academic advisor. **Except as provided below for undergraduates studying abroad (clarification added by President Philip with UAC concurrence), no undergraduate may register for more than 19 credits without prior permission** obtained from the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. Students must present compelling academic justification and have the approval of their academic advisor or major department for a request to exceed 19 credits to be considered by the Office of the Vice Provost.

Undergraduates (clarification added by President Philip with UAC concurrence) studying abroad who plan to take more than 19 SUNY credits must apply for permission no later than 4 weeks after the start of classes overseas. Credits earned for pre-session courses which, when added to the regular semester's courseload, bring the total semester's enrollment to over 19, do not need such permission (clarification added by President Philip with UAC concurrence).

Rationale: Undergraduate students sometimes believe that they will be able to undertake a courseload which advisors at UA may believe is overly ambitious. UAC wants students to be able to succeed in the full set of courses they enroll in each semester, whether at UA or abroad. Since students studying overseas often cannot know what their schedule will be until they have arrived overseas, this bill allows them additional time to consult with their advisor and to file a petition with the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

Some study abroad programs include a credit-bearing pre-session. Since the pre-session coursework is completed prior to the start of the regular term, this bill allows students to register for up to 19 additional SUNY credits without requiring specific permission.

NOTE: The Office of Study Abroad and Exchanges at Albany will implement this rule as follows: if a student's application for a waiver is *not* approved, the student will be instructed to drop back to a maximum of 19 SUNY credits. Any courses dropped because of such instructions will be removed in their entirety from the SUNY Transcript Supplement, even if the

host university assigns a failing grade or otherwise assigns a grade due to that withdrawal. This will assure that students are not penalized for following rules set by UA which might contradict the registration or grading policies of the host university.